

Did you know?

- Deeply religious views earned Edward the Confessor his nickname. Westminster Abbey was built on his orders.
- Harald Hardrada attempted to take the throne by invading the North of England in September 1066. Often recognised by historians as one of the last great Viking kings, he died during the Battle of Stamford Bridge.
- Harold managed to fight off the Viking invasion in the North of England just two days before the Battle of Hastings.
- The Battle of Hastings actually took place seven miles outside of Hastings. The town that grew up around the site later became known as Battle.
- The Battle of Hastings was the first battle in English history in which crossbows were used.
- William was estimated to be about 5 feet and 10 inches tall, which made him quite tall for the time!
- William's jester rode by his side into battle, singing songs and juggling to lift the soldiers' spirits. He was reputedly the first man to be killed during the Battle of Hastings.
- Halley's Comet famously appeared in the sky just before William's invasion of England. It was said to be an omen of bad luck for England. It certainly was for poor Harold!
- William was crowned king on Christmas Day in 1066.
- The Bayeux Tapestry shows Harold being shot in the eye with an arrow, while other historical accounts tell of him being charged at and hacked to death. The arrow in the eye is thought by some to have been deliberate propaganda by King William's court, to make it look as if Harold's death was an act of God.
- The Bayeux Tapestry is divided into 50 sections and is almost 70 metres long!
- The wool yarn used for the Bayeux Tapestry was coloured with vegetable dyes.
- The famous tapestry was once almost used as a cover for military wagons during the French Revolution. Luckily it was rescued and kept safe until the revolution was over.
- The Domesday Book is England's earliest public record and is still valid as a legal document as evidence of title to land.
- The Domesday Book was mainly written in Latin.